



## FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Not much happening on the HF bands as the sunspot numbers hover around the zero mark, but the vhf bands are not affected by this phenomenon. What I am hinting at with tongue in cheek is the poor check in numbers for the Wednesday night VOMARC net. There were just a handful of checkins last week. I am forgetting the net at times and there is a conflict with the REDEXA meeting on the same date. So I am encouraging all to check in, me included, so that all members are kept up to date on the club happenings.

Stan will give an interesting program on digital HF next meeting, so I hope all will attend. Also, I want to know if members are interested in learning how to use a multi-meter. If enough are interested, I will propose we buy, at club expense, enough meters for those who don't have one and want to learn how to use it. A multi-meter is the basic, must have piece of test equipment that every ham should have and know how to use. We could use a meeting program for classes to do just that.

One of the articles that I copied from an ARRL newsletter is the status of HR 555, **Amateur Radio Parity Act**. It seems that Senator Bill Nelson(D-FL) is the lead obstructionist. All we can do is contact our elected officials and ask

them to support this bill. I recommend that you go to the ARRL website and read the entire article.

We have N6P coming up this month. Looks like our traditional site will not be available due to construction, so an alternate site will be selected. Remember, all are invited.

That should do it. Write your representatives and put some RF in the "ether."

73, Jim, K6UUW

### NEXT MEETING

Wed, August 15, 2018, 7:30pm  
City of Sonoma EOC,  
Sonoma Police Department

**Topic: Digital Voice Modes in Ham Radio**

**Presenter: Stan NJ6E**

## Digital Voice on the Amateur HF Bands

At this month's August 15 meeting, club member Stan NJ6E is back to discuss digital voice on the amateur HF bands. Planned is a short history of digital voice on HF, covering early systems through the current FreeDV system. FreeDV can be implemented at low cost using free computer software and readily available radio hardware.

Also planned is a live demonstration of two different ways to run FreeDV on an HF station that need only be capable of normal analog SSB operation.

—Submitted by Stan NJ6E

## VOMARC Meeting Minutes

### June 18, 2018

Called to order promptly at 19:30 by President K6UUW, thank you very much!

KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), KF6VJI (Lonnie), AK6RF (Matt), WA6CRB (Dan), KA2QQO (Declan), W1EJ (Ed), KA5WSS (Robert), KF6FZM (Dick), KE6HID (Andrew), KJ6QIQ (Scott), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), K6UUW (Jim), NJ6E (Stan), N6TVN (Carl), KU6X (Dan)

#### Introductions.

#### Minutes: Approved

**President:** At the Cross Roads Mt Tam hike on Sunday.

**Vice President:** Hello.

**Secretary:** Field Day made 428 contacts, compared to 444 last year. N6P is coming up in August, but may need to be adjusted due to work at the light house. We may not have the garage this year.

**Treasurer's report:** We have received \$3,502.28 in the bank, and Lonnie, KF6VJI, signed up as a new member tonight.

**ACS:** The County is in the process of deciding on how to reorganize Emergency Services. Quarterly Radio Test went well. Sea Ranch North Fire Station is getting a new Alinco Dual Bander. Annual Yellow Command training event is scheduled for September 6. The focus will be on Care and Shelter. Sign ups should be coming out in August. The event will be held at Sonoma State.

**VE Session:** The next VOMARC VE Session is September 29.

#### New Business:

N6P is August 18/19 -Lighthouse on the Air Weekend. Call sign has been reserved. Insurance certificate is in hand. The Park Service is doing work on the Lighthouse and we may not be able to use the garage this year. We are looking at options.

The California Historical Radio Society is having an open house on July 21.

SCRA has a VE test on July 21 at the Bennet Valley Guild (Grange Hall).

KJ6QIQ has a ticket to the Nevada Ham Convention in Boomtown the weekend of July 20-22. He can't go and the ticket is available.

#### Old Business:

Field Day wrap up. At the Cross Roads event.

**Adjourned** at 19:45 – Thank you for the short meeting!!!!

Presentation on Summits on the Air (SOTA) by W1EJ.

Next Month's Topic: Digital Voice Modes in Ham Radio by Stan, NJ6E

—Submitted by: Dave KD6FIL

### Significant Changes in Store for FT8 and MSK144 with *WSJT-X* Version 2.0

[\*WSJT-X\*](#) co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when *WSJT-X* version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready by January.

(from ARRL newsletter, 7/26/2018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Summits on the Air



Ed (W1EJ) shows some of his equipment he uses on his Summits on the Air outings before his presentation at July's VOMARC meeting.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

# Wanted: Your Photos and QSL Cards

—by Robert KA5WSS

I'm gathering up some materials that might be used for future meeting topics based on your comments received in the past. There seems to be some curiosity about the stations and antennas used by fellow members and I suspect

we can come up with a slideshow to highlight this that we might use in the future.

So please send me electronic copies (multiple pictures if you have more than one) of the following:


1. Your QSL Card
2. Your Ham Shack
3. Your Antennas

Please include a description of each as there might be questions about what's pictured.



# Radio Shack is Back - Sort Of

The rumors of Radio Shack's demise were not exaggerated, but they may not have been entirely final. Plans are afoot to place 50 Radio Shack "express stores" in HobbyTown locations. The 500 square foot stores within a store are expected to carry electronic items that might be of interest to Hams, but the details are scarce at the moment.



The logo consists of a large, bold, red capital letter 'R' centered within a red circle. Below the circle, the word 'RadioShack' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**RadioShack®**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/radioshack-express-stores-to-open-in-hobbytwn-usa-locations>

—Submitted by Robert WA5WSS

## ARRL Board Adopts Volunteer Monitoring Program; Official Observer Program to be Retired

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted the recommendations of the Official Observer Program Study Committee, which would retire the venerable Official Observer (OO) Program and institute the Volunteer Monitoring (VM) Program. The Board took the action at its July 20 - 21 meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, instructing that the transition "be implemented as soon as practicable." Under the terms of the new program, current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors. The Board expressed its appreciation for the OOs and their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

The Board said the action is expected to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands and was undertaken at the request of the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff. Coordination of cases and evidence gathering would become the responsibility of ARRL Headquarters staff, while the FCC will retain the responsibility for final decisions regarding action in specific cases.

(from ARRL letter, 8/2/2018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## FCC Cites Baofeng Importer for Illegally Marketing Unauthorized RF Devices

The FCC has issued a *Citation and Order* ([Citation](#)) to [Amcrest Industries, LLC](#) (formerly Foscam Digital Technologies, LLC), an importer and marketer of popular and inexpensive Baofeng handheld transceivers, alleging that the company violated FCC rules and the Communications Act by illegally marketing unauthorized RF devices. The FCC asserts that Amcrest marketed Baofeng model UV-5R-series FM handheld radios capable of transmitting on "restricted frequencies." The

Baofeng models UV-5R and UV-5R V2+ were granted an FCC [equipment authorization](#) in 2012 to operate under Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio Service (Land Mobile) rules.



"Under § 2.803 of the Commission's rules, an entity may not market a device that is capable of operating outside the scope of its equipment authorization," the FCC *Citation* said.

"RF devices that have been authorized under Part 90 rules, such as the model as issue, must operate within the technical parameters established in those rules." The FCC also maintained that the UV-5R 2+ is capable of operating at 1 W or 4 W, while the Part 90 Equipment Authorization limits the power output to 1.78 W.

Amcrest conceded that the units were capable of operating on restricted frequencies but told the FCC that, per discussions with the manufacturer, were "only capable of operating at 1 W, the FCC said. The company instructed the manufacturer to fix the problem and later confirmed with the manufacturer that all Amcrest inventory on order and in the future would operate only on 145 - 155 MHz and 400 - 520 MHz.

While the *Citation* does not mention Amateur Radio, the UV-5R series radios can be programmed in a channelized configuration to function on 2 meters and 70 centimeters. According to the *Citation*, Amcrest had added a warning in its user manuals and marketing and sales materials implying that the UV-5R V2+ could operate on unauthorized and restricted frequencies, including Part 87 Aviation Services frequencies, Part 80 Maritime Services frequencies, and frequencies reserved for federal government use.

Amcrest told the FCC that it had ceased marketing four models in the Baofeng UV-5R series "a few years ago," but it did not remove



them from its website until last February. Numerous online retailers continue selling UV-5R series radios for less than \$25, with some ads indicating that these are "ham" equipment. Read [more](#).

(from ARRL newsletter, 8/2/2018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## ARRL Exhibits for First Time at AirVenture Oshkosh 2018

The ARRL exhibit for the 2018 edition of the world-famous air show complemented other ham radio demonstrations. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, worked with a team of members who supported the exhibit at the weeklong aviation celebration and fly-in. The annual event typically draws more than 500,000 visitors, many of whom had signed the ARRL guest book.

ARRL Life Member and flight instructor TJ Johnson, K9KJ, of Munster, Indiana, was among those stopping by the ARRL booth. He shared his experience of operating aeronautical mobile during ARRL Field Day with his friend Bob Johnson, W9XY.



ARRL Member Jason Phillips, KD9HFW, from Kenosha, Wisconsin, operating from Special Event Station W9ZL during EAA AirVenture. [Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, photo]

Two Amateur Radio [Special Event Stations](#) were on the air throughout AirVenture. Organized annually by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club in Appleton, Wisconsin, W9ZL was set

up at KidVenture at the Pioneer Airport airstrip in Oshkosh.

The EAA Warbirds of America AirVenture Celebration Special Event Station, W9W, was set up near a display of vintage military aircraft.

Booth volunteers helped to direct newcomers to radio clubs and to Amateur Radio test locations, Inderbitzen said.

(from ARRL newsletter , 8/2/2018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## FCC Proposes \$18,000 Fine in Louisiana Amateur Radio Interference Case

The FCC has issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability* ([NAL](#)) proposing to fine Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, \$18,000 "for apparently causing intentional interference and for apparently failing to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies," the FCC said.

"Mr. Materne was previously warned regarding this behavior in writing by the Enforcement Bureau and, given his history as a repeat offender, these apparent violations warrant a significant penalty," the FCC said in the *NAL*, released on July 25.

In 2017, the FCC received numerous complaints alleging that Materne, a General-class licensee, was causing interference to the South West Louisiana Amateur Repeater Club W5BII repeater, preventing other amateur licensees from using it. In March 2017, the repeater trustee banned Materne from using the repeater

(from ARRL newsletter, 7/26/2018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Parity Act Options Open Despite Removal from Defense Authorization Act Conference Report

ARRL Hudson Division Director and ad hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, said this week's removal of [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) (HR 555) language from the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) [Conference Report](#) was unfortunate, but

does not kill the initiative. The Parity Act would ask the FCC to grant radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities the right to install effective outdoor antennas. Lisenco said that while the language was removed from the final NDAA *Conference Report*, other viable options remain to see the Parity Act succeed. (could be bad news. This proposed law has been in the works for years. Hate to see it go down) (from ARR: newsletter, 7/26/21018)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## Light Up 2 Meters Night, an FM simplex event

August 26, 2018 7-9pm Local Time

Most Amateur Radio Operators today start out with a radio capable of operating FM on the 2 meter band, so, you probably already have the minimum equipment necessary to participate. The objective is simple – make 2 meter FM simplex contacts, challenge your operating limits, and just get on the air and have some fun.

The suggested frequency for this event is 146.55 MHz, if calling on 146.52 MHz, please be considerate of other operators. Your local band plan may differ, so feel free to share with suggested frequencies that would be best in your local area.

Now all you have to do is get on the air! Of course, you don't have to stop there, maybe your station needs an upgrade, whether it's a handheld needing a better antenna, to the 100' of 30 year old RG8X to your 2 meter vertical on the tower needing replaced, or maybe, a new mobile rig has been on your shopping list.

The post Light Up 2 Meters Night, an FM simplex event appeared first on KB6NU's Ham Radio Blog.

—Submitted by Scott KJ6QIQ

### THE VOMARC WIRELESS

#### VOLUME 22 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill K6UUW – President

Robert Barron KA5WSS – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

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Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—OR—

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

C/O Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2018 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2018 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 15, 2018, 7:30PM,  
CITY OF SONOMA EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1<sup>ST</sup> ST W, SONOMA, 95476  
SEE YOU THERE.**

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2018

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.